National Commission on Urbanisation

2065. SHIV PRATAP MISHRA:
DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission on Urbanisation in its report submitted January, 1987, has underlined the importance of developing the small towns and cities with a view to preventing concentration of population in the Cities and metropolises;

(b) if so, what steps are being contemplated under the 8th Five Year Plan and what schemes have been laid down for developing the small towns and Cities, in the light of the said report; and

(c) the main recommendations and observations made in the N.C.U. report, and the steps contemplated under the 8th Five Year Plan in the light thereof?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) The National Commision on Urbanisation in its report submitted in August, 1988 has underlined the importance of developing the small towns and cities selectively with a view to preventing concentration of population in the Cities and metropolises.

(b) There is an ongoing Central Scheme for the integrated development of small & medium towns. This will be continued in the 8th Five Year Plan.

(c) The main recommendations made by the Commission are as under:

(i) Identification of 329 urban centres whose economic and physical bases are to be consolidated strengthened and expanded.

(ii) Efficient management of urban land in the cities and amendment of Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act, 1976.

(iii) Special schemes for amelioration of urban poverty with a view to create employment and shelter for the urban poor.

(iv) Recommendations on increasing the supply of serviced land and low cost shelter, improving and upgrading slums and conserving the existing housing stock.

(v) Reorganisation of institutional arrangement for managing urban development at the central and State levels.

(vi) Increasing the plan allocation for urban development and expansion of the tax base and strengthening of the Municipal Administration of the local bodies.

(vii) Improving the Information System at the National level.

The recomendations of National Commission on Urbanisation (NCU) have been taken into consideration while preparing the report of the Working Group in the context of the formulation of the 8th Five Year Plan.

Scarcity and prices of edible oil

2066. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA:
DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY;
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Vanaspati Producers' Association (IVPA) has suggested a comprehensive scheme for tiding over the scarcity and rising prices of edible oils in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details of the scheme, indicating the steps to be taken thereunder; and

(c) what is the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c) The details of the scheme submitted by IVPA comprises the following suggestions:

(i) Release of imported oils to vanaspati industry;

(ii) Increase in usage of expeller mustard oil in the manufacture of vanaspati from 20 per cent to 30 per cent on a continuing basis.

(iii) Increase in excise rebate from Rs. 1000/- to Rs. 1500/- per tonne of vanaspati produced.

These suggestions were examined in detail but not found feasible in context of the present situation of oil prices and constraint in the availability of foreign excange for import of edible oils.

Advertisement for Baby foods on Doordarshan and Air

2067. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to accept advertisement for baby foods on Doordarshan and AIR despite opposition by a number of consumer groups and professional bodies and the WHO, UNICEF and International Baby Food Action Network supporting breast feeding;

(b) whether it is also a fact that India is a signatory to the Inernational Baby Food Code of 1981 prohibiting advertisements of baby foods and that the Indian National code of 1983 prohibits any form of promotion of baby food and feeding bottles; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons for accepting advertisements for baby foods for Doordarshan and AIR?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SMT. USHA SINHA): (a) The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting have since decided in principle to accept the advertisements for spoon-fed complementary foods by Doordarshan and AIR only so long as the manufacturers and distributors of these products do not promote them as being suitable for use as partial or total substitutes for breast-milk. Each proposal is required to be examined by them on its own merits before final acceptance.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Word Health Organisation of which India is a member country adopted the International Code of Marketing of Breast milk Sobstitutes in 1981. Under the Indian National Code for Protection and Promotion of Breast-feeding adopted by the Government of India in 1983, there shall be no advertising or other form of promotion of products within the scope of this Code. The scope of the Code includes the marketing, and practices related thereto, of Breast-milk substitutes, including infant formula; other milk products, foods and beverages, including bottle-fed complementary foods, when marketed or otherwise represented to be suitable, with or without modification, for use as a partial or total replacement of breast-milk; feeding bottles and teats. It also applies to their quality and availability, and to information concerning their use.

(c) Ministry of Information and Broadcasting have informed that Doordarshan and Akashvani do not accept advertisements of 'Baby Foods' also known as 'Infant Milk Foods' which are marketed or otherwise represented as a partial or total replarement for mother's milk whether or not these are suitable for such replacemnt.

Production of oilsseeds and Pulses

2068. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated production of pulses and oilseeds during the current year and what was the production during the last year; and